

*Money Will Also Help Rapidly Re-House Individuals and Families Who Fall Into Homelessness*

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced the release of more than \$2.3 million in federal economic recovery funds for the City of Binghamton (\$955,655), Dutchess County (\$654,862) and Orange County (\$713,117) to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or to rapidly re-house those who fall into homelessness. The funding comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which Hinchey actively supported and helped pass earlier this year.

"At a time when so many families in New York and across the country are facing extremely difficult financial circumstances, this federal funding will provide the support they need to either avoid becoming homeless or to lift them out of the homeless ranks and put them into more stable housing," Hinchey said. "In addition to directly helping those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, these federal economic recovery funds will also reduce the local financial burden that is associated with caring for and managing a homeless population. I'm very pleased that the economic recovery funds we approved earlier this year in Washington are making their way back up to New York in an effective manner."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is administering the funding through its new Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), which provides funding to communities across the country that then provide help to local individuals and families. HPRP offers a variety of short- and medium-term financial assistance to those who would otherwise become homeless, many due to sudden economic crisis. This can include short-term rental assistance (up to three months), medium-term rental assistance (up to 18 months), security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and hotel vouchers. Payments will not be made directly to households, but only to third parties, such as landlords or utility companies. The program also provides assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless and likely to remain stably housed, whether subsidized or unsubsidized, once the HPRP assistance concludes.

The Recovery Act includes \$13.61 billion for projects and programs administered by HUD, nearly 75 percent of which was allocated to state and local recipients only eight days after President Obama signed the Act into law. The HPRP funding was among the 75 percent that was allocated during that time. Now, as grant recipients' spending plans are approved, HUD is officially making these funds available to spend. The remaining 25 percent of HUD Recovery Act funding is being awarded through a competitive process.

